

era. boundary of the lordship of Chieti. His indefinite claim to the portion south of that received from Arichis of Benevento only the acknowledgment of a tribute which left the Duke a sovereign prince. His successors both of the Prankish and the Saxon House made several appearances in the south; practically however, the imperial power below the Garigliano was a mere supremacy only occasionally enforced. Again their claims were contested by their own "protege", the Papacy. In 774, Charles the Great conferred upon Pope Hadrian the Duchy of Rome. This grant of the Patrimony of Peter was held on the Papal side to have included Spoleto and Benevento; the claim was never allowed, but an impression was created that the Pope was the real viceroy of Italy. Behind it all there was the all-accredited Donation of Constantine to fall back on; had not that left all Italy to the Pope? But whatever Pope, Greek, or other opponent might affirm, the imperial claim to Southern Italy was never more than in abeyance, and till the Norman kingdom itself passed away the transalpine Emperors continued haughtily to denounce as interlopers all who claimed any

dominion in the southern fringe of the Empire.

The Byzantines were no less tenacious in asserting a legal sovereignty over the much-debated land. If their realm was, as it claimed to be, the real heir to the Empire of the Csesars, if the Emperor of the West was in truth merely a "bar-